

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, April 23, 2009

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note that the minutes are a brief summary
and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

Jerry Lubin, Chair, Presiding

I. Call to Order – Jerry Lubin

The presiding Chair called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call – Canetana Hurd

Attendance recorded:

- Absent Excused: Howard Askins, Carlos Sosa, and Hayward McNeill
- Absent: Deputy Phillip Chen

III. Approval of Minutes – Tabled

The minutes for the month of March 2009 were tabled.

IV. Jerry Lubin, Chair

Jerry Lubin, Chair – Provided an overview of the activities/events that will take place immediately following today's Commission meeting. Commissioner attendance at any one of the four events will be recorded as meeting attendance. Only Commission who were unable to attend any of the events will be absent excused.

1. **Public Hearing for the Annual Plan** – Immediately following the Commission meeting there will be a public hearing from 12 noon – 2:30 pm for the MHSA Annual Plan at the Wilshire Plaza Hotel.
2. **10th Annual Recognition and Awards Program** – Immediately following the public hearing, the Commission will host the 10th Annual Awards Program at the Larchmont Grill from 3:30 – 6 pm. The outstanding honorees are as follows:

2009 OUTSTANDING CONSUMER ADVOCATE

Mark Karmatz

2009 PARENT ADVOCATE

Edward Mullins

2009 CHAIR'S AWARD

Natalie Ambrose - Chair, Service Area 1 Advisory Committee

**2009 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT PROGRAM TRANSFORMATION &
SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARDEES**

Downtown Mental Health Center and LAMP

2009 PERSONAL LEGACY RECIPIENT

Roderick Shaner, MD, Medical Director, Department of Mental Health

2009 COMMISSION AWARD – INNOVATION

Stacey Snider, President & CEO, Dreamworks

3. **Private screening of the movie “The Soloist”** – Following the awards program, the Commission will host a private screening of the movie, “The Soloist” on the Paramount Studio lot in the Sherry Lansing Theater. The Commission staff received a total of 200+ RSVPs expected to attend the screening. The evening will begin with music performed by Shelli Weekes, DMH Human Resources Manager accompanied by Llew Matthews on keyboards. A panel discussion will follow immediately after the screening facilitated by:

Lawrence Hurst, LCSW, Director
Downtown Mental Health Center

Frank Baron
Consumer Advocate, Mental Health Commissioner

Stella March
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill

Susan Rajlal
Legislative Analyst, Department of Mental Health

Dr. Roderick Shaner
Medical Director, Department of Mental Health

Flora Gil Krisiloff
Board Deputy, Mental Health and Homelessness

Commission/SAAC Chairs Monthly Meeting – The primary topic of discussion was the budget, particularly how DMH manages sustainability during the current critical economic situation California is facing salary reductions and job cuts. The next meeting with SAAC Chairs will be May 12, 2009.

V. Commissioner/Subcommittee Report

CALMHB/C (California Local Mental Health Boards/Commissions) Report – Commissioners Delores Huffman and Greg Thompson, and Terry Lewis, Commission

Executive Director attended the CALMHB/C quarterly meeting April 17-18, 2009 at the Hilton Hotel near LAX. The following topics were discussed at the meeting:

- Conference planned June 2009 in San Jose for three days
- Annual elections will take place in June 2009. There are a few vacancies to fill.
- Establish/clarify MHC officer positions
- Overview of the bylaws
- Representation on committees
- CIT trainings continue in the northern county area.

Commissioner Barry Perrou – Commissioner Perrou reported the 13th Annual Stepping In Conference hosted by Supervisor Don Knabe and College Hospitals was a success; over 500 attended. The conference was held April 15, 2009 in Norwalk, California; it focused on “The Adolescent Sub-Culture.” Commissioner Perrou particularly talked about the following:

- The video showing children being solicited over the internet
- Gail Jones, Conference Coordinator, received the prestigious POST Excellence in Training Award. Ms. Jones was the first civilian to receive the POST (Peace Officers Standards & Training) award.
- Each year Supervisor Knabe recognizes an outstanding citizen. Commissioner Ilean Rabens was this year’s recipient. Ms. Rabens was acknowledged for dedication to coordinating visual and performing arts program activities in the County’s juvenile detention facilities.

Commissioner Delores Huffman – Ms. Huffman submitted the following Housing Services report:

MHSA Housing Trust Fund - The Department is in contract negotiations with awardees. The Department has completed a draft board letter requesting approval from the Board of Supervisors to enter into a five-year Agreement for Supportive Services. We anticipate that this request will go before the Board in mid-May.

MHSA Housing Program - Fourteen projects are actively participating in the MHSA Housing Program application process. The status of each project is shown below:

Initiating the Service Planning/Technical Review Process

- Swarthy, Inc.
- Epworth Apartments
- 28th St. YMCA Residences
- Mini Twelve Step House

Technical Submission under Review and/or Posted for 30 Day Public Review & Comment

- The Ford Apartments

- Charles Cobb Apartments

Preparing Full Application for Submission

- Figueroa Apartments
- Progress Place I and II

Application Submitted to the State

- Nehemiah Court Apartments
- Daniel's Village
- Villas at Gower

Project Approved for Funding

- Young Burlington
- The Courtyards in Long Beach
- Glenoaks Gardens

The current financial crisis is continuing to have an impact on some of the projects that have applied for funding under the MHSA Housing Program since it has become increasingly difficult for projects to secure construction loans. This may result in some delays; however, the Department will keep the Mental Health Commission apprised of any new information that we receive regarding this issue.

Ongoing & Upcoming Activities - The MHSA Housing Advisory Board entered its third term on February 1, 2009. The Department is currently recruiting more mental health consumers and family members to participate on this board.

The Department has initiated comprehensive outreach efforts to promote the MHSA Housing program countywide. We will be hosting meetings with local Community Redevelopment Agencies, recipients of Neighborhood Stabilization Program funding, and local Councils of Governments to discuss opportunities to leverage MHSA Housing Program funding with other available funding streams.

VI. Departmental Report - Dr. Rod Shaner, Medical Director, discussed the following:

- Budget – Financial conditions are more or less stable because of the federal stimulus package and Dr. Southard's leadership regarding transformation adjustments to MHSA programs. The federal stimulus fund will help keep federal programs in tact.
- Departmental - The annual review of the Los Angeles County Mental Health Plan (MHP) by the assigned External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) appeared to have gone generally well, judging by comments at the exit interview. However, the EQRO noted that there were instances in which clients reported a perception that access barriers to services at some clinics remained. This may be an unintended consequence the process of transformation, as resources are shifting to new programs that may not yet be familiar access points.

- **MHSA** - Further efforts toward transformation of programs to MHSA programs continues and remains important as a method of ensuring continued DMH services to those who need them. As the new system becomes better integrated and Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) programs become operational, access should improve. Executive management is also evaluating more immediate steps to address access issues.
- **Mobile Response Collaboration** - The department continues to work with DHS to enhance access to mental health services in crisis situations. Psychiatric mobile response teams have now fully resumed 24/7 operations and the successful DMH/DHS collaboration to reduce waiting times in the Olive View Medical Center psychiatric emergency service is scheduled to additionally operate at Harbor/UCLA Medical Center, starting in early May.

Legislative Report – Susan Rajlal, DMH Legislative Analyst

Ms. Rajlal discussed the following

The California Mental Health Director's Association supports AB 421. AB 421 addresses an unfair situation for children, parents, and counties by amending state law to allow state reimbursement for special education kids placed in out of state "for-profit" residential facilities due to lack of space in California. California county mental health departments are mandated by the state to provide needed mental health services to students pursuant to the federal Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Because it is a state mandate, California is required to reimburse counties for their costs in providing these services.

Congressman Patrick Kennedy visits Los Angeles - Congressman Kennedy visited Los Angeles on April 15, 2009 to discuss federal health care reform that integrates all aspects of physical and mental health treatment. The visit provided an opportunity to let him know what is important to Californians. A tour of Skid Row and OPCC in addition to other health and mental health facilities was part of the visit. Dr. Robin Kay and Dennis Murata were among DMH staff that participated in the activities.

Ms. Rajlal will continue dialogue with legislation and update the Commission about its accomplishments.

VII. Community and SAAC Chair Reports

SAAC 6 – Commissioner Delores Huffman reported SAAC 6 hosted a reception for Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas at Kedren Children Mental Health Center.

VIII. Public Comments - None

IX. Meeting Adjourned

X. Next Meeting Information – The next scheduled meeting will be held:

Thursday, May 28, 2009

12 – 2:30 pm

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

500 W. Temple Street, Room 739

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Ch/ch